

COTTAM & Co.,
General Cutlers.
FOR CYCLISTS,
CYCLE CAPES,
CYCLE SHOES,
&c., &c.
Hongkong Hotel Buildings.

The Hongkong Telegraph.

ESTABLISHED 1881.

THE UNITED ASBESTOS
ORIENTAL AGENCY.

Sole Agents for the
UNITED ASBESTOS COM-
PANY, LTD. LONDON.
DODWELL, CARLILL & CO.,
General Agents.

NEW SERIES No. 803. 日廿月二十一年三十二號

MONDAY, JANUARY 17, 1898.

一月
歲七十正英港

THIRTY DOLLARS
PER ANNUM.

BANKS.

THE CHARTERED BANK OF INDIA,
AUSTRALIA AND CHINA.
INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER, 1853.
HEAD OFFICE—LONDON.
CAPITAL PAID-UP \$100,000
RESERVE LIABILITY OF SHARE-
HOLDERS \$100,000
RESERVE FUND \$175,000
INTEREST ALLOWED on CURRENT
ACCOUNT at the Rate of 2 per cent. per
annum on the Daily Balances.
On Fixed Deposits for 12 months 4 per cent.
" " " 6 " " 3 " " 2 " " 1 "
T. H. WHITEHEAD,
Manager, Hongkong.
Hongkong, 2nd June, 1898.

HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI
BANKING CORPORATION.
PAID-UP CAPITAL \$10,000,000
RESERVE FUND \$3,700,000
RESERVE LIABILITY OF SHARE-
HOLDERS \$14,000,000

COURT OF DIRECTORS:
St. C. MICHAELSEN, Esq.—Chairman.
Hon. J. J. BELL-IRVING.—Deputy Chairman.
C. Beurmann, Esq.

G. D. Boiling, Esq. A. I. Raymond, Esq.
G. B. Dodwell, Esq. R. L. Richardson, Esq.
R. M. Gray, Esq. R. Shewell, Esq.
David Gubay, Esq. N. A. Siebs, Esq.

CHIEF MANAGER:
Hongkong—T. JACKSON, Esq.

MANAGER:
Shanghai—J. P. WADDE GARDNER, Esq.
LONDON BANKERS—LONDON AND COUNTY
BANKING COMPANY, LIMITED.

HONGKONG—INTEREST ALLOWED:

On Current Account at the rate of 2 per cent.
per annum on the daily balance.

INTEREST ON FIXED DEPOSITS:
For 3 months, 2½ per cent. per annum.
For 6 months, 3 per cent. per annum.
For 12 months, 4 per cent. per annum.

T. JACKSON,
Chief Manager,
Hongkong, 8th November, 1898.

HONGKONG SAVINGS BANK.

THE Business of the above Bank is conducted
by the HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI
BANKING CORPORATION. Rules may be
obtained on application.

INTEREST on deposits is allowed at 3½ PER
CENT. per annum.

Depositors may transfer at their option
balances of \$100 or more to the HONGKONG AND
SHANGHAI BANK to be placed on FIXED
DEPOSIT at 4 PER CENT. per annum.

For the HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI
BANKING CORPORATION,

T. JACKSON,
Chief Manager,

Hongkong, 1st August, 1898.

THE NATIONAL BANK OF CHINA,
LIMITED.

Authorised Capital \$1,000,000
Paid up Capital \$24,374

HEAD OFFICE—HONGKONG.

Court of Directors:
D. Gillick, Esq.
J. T. Lau, Esq. Chow Tung Shan, Esq.
Chan Kit Shin, Esq. Kwan Ho Chuen, Esq.
Chief Manager,
G. W. F. PLAYFAIR.

Interest for 12 months Fixed, 5 per cent.
On Current Account, Daily Balances 2 per
cent. per annum.
Hongkong, 30th November, 1897.

INSURANCES.

THE STANDARD
is one of the LARGEST and BEST KNOWN
of the BRITISH LIFE OFFICES.

FUNDS exceed EIGHT MILLIONS STERLING.
ANNUAL REVENUE OVER ONE MILLION
STERLING.

For Forms of Proposal and every Information,
Apply to

DODWELL, CARLILL & CO.,
Agents,
Hongkong, 2nd March, 1896.

NORTH GERMAN FIRE INSURANCE
COMPANY OF HAMBURG.

THE Undersigned AGENTS of the above
Company are prepared to accept First
Class FOREIGN and CHINESE RISKS at
CURRENT RATES.

Hongkong, 28th May, 1898.

GENERAL NOTICE.

THE ON TAI INSURANCE COMPANY,
(LIMITED.)

CAPITAL, TAELIS 600,000 } \$33,333.33
EQUAL TO } \$33,333.33
RESERVE FUND \$318,000.00

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Lee Simo, Esq. Lo Yuen Moon, Esq.
Lou Tso Shun, Esq.

MANAGER—HO AMEI.

MARINE RISKS on GOODS, &c., taken
at CURRENT RATES to all parts of the
World.

HEAD OFFICE, 8 & 9, PRAYA WEST,
Hongkong, 19th December, 1897.

NOTICE.

THE MAN ON INSURANCE COMPANY,
LIMITED.

CAPITAL SUBSCRIBED \$1,000,000

The above Company is prepared to accept
MARINE RISKS at CURRENT RATES on GOODS,
&c. Policies granted to all Parts of the world
payable at any of its Agents.

CHAU TSEUNG FAT,
Secretary,
HEAD OFFICE,
No. 2, QUEEN'S ROAD WEST,
Hongkong, 26th May, 1894.

Intimations.

PENINSULAR AND ORIENTAL STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY.

(1a)

FOR	STEAMERS	CAPTAINS	TO SAIL	REMARKS
LONDON	Java	J. Chellew, R.N.R.	About 21st Jan.	Freight or Passage.
SHANGHAI	Ganges	T. F. Gastry	About 23rd Jan.	Freight or Passage.
LONDON &c.	Verona	C. H. S. Tocque, R.N.R.	27th Jan.	[See Special Advertisement.]
JAPAN, &c.	Borneo	F. C. A. Lyon, R.N.R.	About 27th Jan.	Freight or Passage.
JAPAN	Rosella	F. N. Tillard	28th Jan.	Freight or Passage.
LONDON	Ceylon	R. R. Pearce	About 5th Feb.	Freight or Passage.

For Further Particulars apply to

H. A. RITCHIE, Superintendent,

Hongkong, 17th January, 1898.

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CURRY

TRY THE

CLUB HOTEL, LIMITED.

No. 5-B, BUND, TOKOHAMA.

A FIRST-CLASS HOTEL Centrally situated, well furnished and
supplied with excellent Cuisine and Good Wines.

The Company's Steam-launch attends the arrival and departure of all
Mail Steamers.

Special attention paid to the Comfort of Visitors.

E. V. SIOEN, Manager,

Yokohama, 1st October, 1897.

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XERES VERMOUTH

Made from PURE XERES SHERRY.



THE TRUE COMBINATION OF A BAMBOO.

SAMPLES FREE.

YUEEN WO.

\$11 per doz. litre Bottles.

TELPHONE, No. 135.

SOLE AGENTS:

H. PRICE & CO., No. 19, QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL.

Hongkong, 6th January, 1898.

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HAVE YOU TRIED IT?

WHAT? WHY, THAT BEAUTIFUL.

AMERICAN BUTTER

AT

THE HONGKONG BUTCHERY.

\$1.00 PER ROLL,

OR IN PATS AT 20 CENTS AND 40 CENTS PER PAT.

Hongkong, 2nd December, 1897.

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W. POWELL & CO.

HIGH CLASS

EUROPEAN SPECIALITIES

FOR

CHINESE LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

Hongkong, 13th January, 1898.

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Intimations.

UNITED ASBESTOS ORIENTAL AGENCY. LIMITED.

SOLE AGENTS IN

HONGKONG, CHINA, JAPAN AND THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS,
FOR THE

UNITED ASBESTOS COMPANY, LIMITED, LONDON,

CONTRACTORS TO H.M. GOVERNMENT.

MANUFACTURERS OF THE

Best Qualities of ASBESTOS GOODS and PACKINGS.

HYDRAULIC and SELF LUBRICATING PUMP PACKINGS of all kinds.

"VICTOR" METALLIC BOILER JOINTS.

ASBESTOS SALAMANDER BOILER COVERING COMPOSITION of the best qualities.

ESTIMATES given for every DESCRIPTION of WORK.

SUPERINTENDENT.....THOS. SKINNER.

27] DODWELL CARLILL & CO., General Agents.

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Intimations.

S. G. HILL, D.D.S.,
AMERICAN DENTIST.

WINDSOR HOTEL, No. 16, Queen's Road,

OFFICE HOURS:—

10 to 12 A.M. 2 to 3 P.M.
Hongkong, 3rd January, 1897. 1-15 50

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF
HONGKONG.

PROBATE JURISDICTION.

IN THE GOODS of GERALD SLADE late
of No. 12, ALBANY PICCADILLY
LONDON and of VICTORIA in the
COLONY of HONGKONG MERCHANT
DECEASED.

NOTICE is hereby given that His Honour
the Chief Justice has, in virtue of Section
18 of Ordinance No. 3 of 1897 made an order
limiting to the 1st day of February 1898 as the time for
Creditors to send in their Claims
against the Estate of GERALD SLADE late of
No. 12, ALBANY PICCADILLY LONDON and of
VICTORIA in the COLONY of HONGKONG MERCHANT
deceased who died on the 4th day of
November, 1897, at Victoria aforesaid and Probate
of whose Will was granted by the Supreme
Court of Hongkong in its PROBATE JURIS-
DICTION on the 12th day of November 1897
to HENRY WARRE SLADE of Victoria
aforesaid Merchant Assistant one of the Execu-
tors named in the Will of the said GERALD
SLADE.

Notice is also given that all such Claims are
to be sent in, in writing, to the Undersigned
prior to the said 1st day of February 1898 or no
notice will be taken of them.

All persons indebted to the above estate are
requested to make immediate payment to the
Undersigned.

Dated this 23rd day of November, 1897.

JOHNSON, STOKES & MASTER,
Solicitors for the said
Executor.

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THE
WEST POINT BUILDING COMPANY,
LIMITED.

NOTICE is hereby given that the NINTH
ORDINARY MEETING of Share-
holders in this Company will be held at the Com-
pany's OFFICES, Victoria Buildings, on FRIDAY,
the 28th January, 1898, at 11.30 o'clock A.M. for
the purpose of receiving the Report of the Directors
together with Statement of Accounts for the
year ending 31st December, 1897.

The Register of Shares of the Company will
be CLOSED from WEDNESDAY the 19th to
FRIDAY, the 28th January, 1898, (both days
inclusive), during which period no Transfer of
Shares can be registered.

By Order of the Board of Directors.

A. SHELTON HOOPER,
Secretary,<

To-day's
Advertisements.

ADMIRALTY WORKS DEPARTMENT

TENDERS are invited for the supply and delivery free on wharf at HONGKONG NAVAL YARD of four girders, of either wrought iron, steel, or cast iron.

The girders to be twenty eight feet long, not less than twenty or more than 42 inches deep and flange in compression not less than 24 inches wide, and capable of carrying safely a load of twenty four tons uniformly distributed over a clear span of 36 feet.

Each tender to state a time within which delivery can be guaranteed, and to be accompanied by a fully dimensioned section of the girder tendered for, or if not of constant section, a fully dimensioned elevation. If joints occur in plates or bars, detail must be given of these or it will be understood that the tender covers such details of joints as the Admiralty may direct.

The tenders to be enclosed in sealed envelopes marked on the outside "Tender for Girders" addressed to the Commodore, Naval Yard, Hongkong and delivered at or before Noon on WEDNESDAY, the 26th instant.

Contractors wishing to submit a section of a girder for approval before tendering must forward the same to the Commodore before 22nd instant.

Hongkong Naval Yard,
17th January, 1898.

To-day's
Advertisements.

PERSERVERANCE LODGE OF
HONGKONG No. 1106.

A REGULAR MEETING of the above LODGE will be held in the Firemen's HALL, Zeidet Street, TO-NIGHT, the 17th instant, at 8.30 for 9 p.m. precisely. Visiting Brethren are cordially invited to attend.

Hongkong, 17th January, 1898.

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UNITED SERVICE CLUB.

A SMOKING CONCERT will be held in the Navy Club Rooms, No. 4, Queen's Road Central, THIS EVENING, commencing at 8.30 p.m.

Chair will be taken by Major Sir JOHN CARRINGTON, Kt., C.M.G.

Hongkong, 17th January, 1898.

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NOTICE.

I HAVE THIS DAY established myself as a MERCHANT under the name of

H. PIRY & CO.

(Li Wah Ying).

19, Praya West.

Hongkong, 17th January, 1898.

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Intimations.

DAKIN, CRICKSHANK &
COMPANY,
VICTORIA DISPENSARY,
HONGKONG.

AERATED WATERS.

SIMPLE AERATED WATER.

SODA WATER.

LEMONADE.

GINGER ALE.

SARSAPARILLA.

RASPBERRYADE, &c.

Hongkong, 17th January, 1898.

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CHINA NAVIGATION COMPANY,
LIMITED.

FOR SHANGHAI.

THE Company's Steamship
"TIENTSIN."

Captain Dawson, will be despatched as above

TO-MORROW, the 18th instant, at 4 P.M.

For Freight or Passage, apply to

BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE,

Agents.

Hongkong, 17th January, 1898.

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CHINA NAVIGATION COMPANY,
LIMITED.

FOR KORE.

THE Company's Steamship
"CHINGTU."

Captain Jones, will be despatched as above

on FRIDAY, the 21st instant, at Noon.

For Freight or Passage, apply to

BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE,

Agents.

Hongkong, 17th January, 1898.

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OCEAN STEAMSHIP COMPANY.

FOR SANDAKAN AND KUDAT.

THE Company's Steamship
"MEMNON."

Captain Mogridge, will be despatched on

FRIDAY, the 21st instant, at 3 P.M.

For Freight or Passage, apply to

BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE,

Agents.

Hongkong, 17th January, 1898.

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CHINA NAVIGATION COMPANY,
LIMITED.

FOR PORT DARWIN, QUEENSLAND
PORTS, SYDNEY, AND MELBOURNE.

THE Company's Steamship
"CHANGSHA."

Captain Williams, will be despatched on

FRIDAY, the 28th instant, at 3 P.M.

The attention of Passengers is directed to the

Superior Accommodation offered by this Steamer.

The First-class Saloon is situated forward of the

Engines. A Refrigerating Chamber ensures the

Supply of Fresh Provisions during the entire

voyage.

A duly qualified Surgeon is carried and the

Steamer is fitted throughout with Electric Light.

N.B.—Return Tickets issued by this Company

to and from AUSTRALIA are available for return

by the Steamers of the EASTERN AND AUSTRALIAN S.S. Co. and vice versa.

For Freight or Passage, apply to

BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE,

Agents.

Hongkong, 17th January, 1898.

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GLEN LINE OF STEAM PACKETS.

FROM MIDDLESBORO, LONDON BOR-

DEAUX AND STRAITS.

THE Steamship
"GLEN GARRY."

having arrived from the above Ports, Consignees

of Cargo by her are hereby informed that their

Goods are being landed at their risk into the

Godowns of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharfs

and General Company, Limited, at Kowloon,

where delivery may be obtained.

Optional Cargo will be forwarded unless

notice to the contrary be given before Noon

TO-DAY.

Cargo remaining undelivered after the 23rd

instant will be subject to rent.

No Fire Insurance has been effected.

Consignees are requested to present all Claims

for damage and/or shortages, not later than

the 26th instant, otherwise they will not be

recovered.

All broken, chafed and damaged Goods are to

be left in the Godowns, where they will be

examined on the 29th instant at 11 A.M.

Bills of Lading will be countersigned by

JARDINE, MATHESON & CO.,

Agents.

Hongkong, 17th January, 1898.

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AUSTRIAN LLOYD'S STEAM NAVIGA-

TION COMPANY.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNERS.

FROM KORE.

THE Steamship
"POSEIDON."

having arrived from the above Ports, Consignees

of Cargo by her are hereby informed that their

Goods are being landed at their risk into the

Godowns of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharfs

and General Company, Limited, whence delivery

may be obtained.

No Claims will be admitted, after the Goods

have left the Godowns, and all claims must be

sent in to the Underwriters before Noon on the

23rd instant, or they will not be recognized.

No Fire Insurance has been effected, and any

Goods remaining in the Godowns after the 23rd

instant will be subject to rent.

Bills of Lading will be countersigned by

SANDER & CO.,

Agents.

Hongkong, 17th January, 1898.

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A. S. WATSON & CO., LTD.

THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY.

Hongkong, 17th January, 1898.

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BIRTHS.

At Shanghai, on the 2nd of December, 1897,

the wife of F. C. PARCELING, a daughter.

At No. 3, Mahaloo Terrace, Shanghai, on the

5th of January, 1898, the wife of R. W. HEDDORN,

a son.

DEATH.

At Annfield House, Inverness, in his 90th

year, JOHN MACTAVISH, formerly Manager of

the Caledonian Banking Company, Scotland,

(By telegram.)

UNITED SERVICE CLUB.

A REGULAR MEETING of the above

LODGE will be held in the Firemen's

HALL, Zeidet Street, TO-NIGHT, the 17th

instant, at 8.30 for 9 p.m. precisely. Visiting

Brethren are cordially invited to attend.

Hongkong, 17th January, 1898.

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BRITISH NORTH BORNEO:

According to news brought by the

Memor, the inhabitants of Sandakan have

opened the new year with rather exciting

times. At the commencement of the month

the Sultan of Brunei arrived in Sandakan

with his ministers and a retinue of some

eighty followers, all fully armed.

Everything went well until one of the Borneo

Company's officers happened to recognise

in the person of the Sultan's prime minister

a notorious criminal and murderer, LEPAI

by name, who had escaped from the gaol in

Sandakan, while under sentence of death

that another of the cases cited had nothing whatever to do with the present question and was no authority and on the principles laid down in this case the rule was inapplicable wholly and entirely to proceedings of this description. At the commencement of the suit there was a perfectly good case of action against the two defendants jointly. It was the same suit and not another, and in the first place if his friend thought he was entitled to this he should have pleaded it when judgment was obtained in Sept. as his answer was only filed in October.

After further argument Mr. Robleson's objection was overruled.

Plaintiff was then examined by Mr. Francis and cross-examined by Mr. Robleson regarding the transaction with defendants.

The Court adjourned at 4.15 p.m. until 10.30 a.m. to-morrow.

INDO-CHINA.

BY JOHN DILL ROSE, IN THE "SINGAPORE FREE PRESS."

(Continued)

All along the coast of Indo-China there is a succession of ports of varying importance. There is Phan-thiet close by Cape St. James, and extending northwards are Phan-ray, Phan-tang, Hoc-Che, Quilon, Tonkine and finally Haiphong. The smaller places are all a good deal like one another, and consist chiefly of a very small village on the seashore, and a market place surrounded by a small town some miles inland. The Customs House, with the French colors flying over it, is always a prominent object to be observed on landings, the house of the Resident and that of the *gouverneur* or native prefect, are perhaps the only buildings worthy of this name, and even they are sometimes very modest affairs.

The establishment of the Foreign Missions stands by itself, and consists of a number of buildings of which the church is the centre. Here are the dwellings of the priests, their schools, workshops and granaries. If the place is of sufficient importance there is a French officer in charge of the *Units* or Annamite soldiers in the pay of the Government, and somewhere near the market place there is a solitary telegraph operator, who also looks after the postal arrangements of the district.

If a building larger than the rest, or a trifle more respectable than the others is to be seen, it certainly belongs to a Chinaman. There may not be more than half a dozen Chinese in the whole place, but they make all the money that is to be got out of it, and plunder the Annamites shamefully. The Annamite dwellings are the merest shambles imaginable, just sticks and thatch put together somehow, and crammed together all in a heap. Into these miserable dwellings the Annamites crowd themselves in incredible numbers, in utter defiance of all decency or sanitation. They are a very small race, requiring but little room for themselves, and I have sometimes walked through an Annamite street in which the roofs of the houses on each side were brushed by my shoulders as I went along. In the course of my progress dozens of men and women would scurry into their hatches like so many rabbits, whilst I unavoidably kicked up a never ending cloud of dirty children, many dogs and cats, and thrice-rate goats, pigs, and poultry. The whole of an Annamite village swarms with life of a kind, and superabundantly with fleas. Fish, fresh and otherwise, is all over the place, dust and dirt are everywhere, and the rualor of this village is extreme.

The Annamites themselves are a small weedy race, the great bulk of whom are very poor, and where most are no better than their phys. It is said that their distinctive stature and weakly frame is largely due to the remarkable way in which they are brought into this world. An Annamite confinement is a truly astonishing affair. It appears that every one of these wretched souls, after resorting to a vigorous massage, actually tramples underfoot, in a certain way, the woman who is confined to her case. The unfortunate woman is then delivered in an upright position, and is finally stretched on a hard, over-burdened bed, which more or less roasts her. This is, of course, the slightest possible sketch of a thing difficult to describe at all, although it is so extraordinary and so nearly concerns the entire Annamite race, that I think it permissible just to mention it. I have come across a detailed account of it in a French work, and one of my friends was most desirous of telling me how a European lady of ex-accusation had, in default of any other assistance, been compelled to submit to the Annamite treatment, *avec tout le tremblement*, as he expressed it, but I fled, and was out of range before he could get fairly under way with his story. There are, of course, other causes at work which tend to physically degrade the Annamite. Fish, no doubt enters much too largely into his diet, he is given to drinking to excess, and he seems to be particularly subject to certain destructive forms of disease.

There are, of course, plenty of good points to be noted about these people. It may be said that they are often quick and intelligent, and there is an amability about them which is rather taking. Under French officers they fight well in their own swamps and forests, though they certainly are an odd looking lot. The uniform of the *troupe annamite* consists of a pair of white pyjamas, set off by a broad red sash, they also wear a small blue jacket and a queer little flat hat, trimmed with two long red streamers. It is a truly remarkable sight, and as they are little chaps, they look more like a new and mistaken sort of female than anything else, but they know how to use the rifle that they carry, and have done the French good service many a time.

The Annamites as a body get through a good deal of actual labour, because they *must*, as they are very poor and wages are so low, that they have to do a lot of work for small sum. Directly they get any money, however, their laziness comes out at once, and your Annamite coolie is off with his little pig to drink, gamble, smoke—opium, and generally misconduct himself. In the interior the servility of these people is very trying to an Englishman. Directly they see a Frenchman, down they go on all fours, and if they are on horseback they dismount while he passes. Sometimes I have seen forty or fifty pack horses with their loads, driven off the road in order that I might have it all to myself, much dismounted continually, or if they were being carried in litters, they were shot out of them, in order to show me the proper respect due to a Frenchman, for of course they all took me for one. I have often ridden into one of their villages with some scores of Annamites trailing to the rear of me, not one of whom dared to pass me on the road. I used to feel it a nuisance that the whole country side had to be stoned on its head, just because I chose to ride from Hoc-Che to Nin-Hoa. Many of the French officials, however, insist that it is absolutely necessary to extirpate these harsh obnoxious from the people, and many a native chief of a village or district has been severely punished because some officer or other has not been greeted with the *lais* due to his rank. The Annamite of to-day, is the outcome of centuries of oppression and misrule. For hundreds of years the mandarins of Annam have subjected their wretched countrymen to every form of cruelty and oppression which human wickedness has been

able to devise, and it is not a matter of surprise therefore that these people are to-day an abject and servile race. The French have delivered the whole Annamite nation from an intolerable bondage, and although they are much harder on the natives than we are, they keep them well in hand, nor do they allow them to think that they are as good or better than their masters. The French forces in Indo-China are very small to allow of the natives threatening such dangerous illusions. I was once captured by a squad of police in Japan, as I was riding towards Hakone, made to dismount from my horse, and was ordered to stand with my hat in one hand and my hands in the other while one of their notabilities passed along the road. I thought with some bitterness that the hood used to be on the other side when I was in Annam. I did not like the situation and my gorge rose at it, so I gave my horse a cut with my whip, which sent him capering across the fields. I took off my hat as the great man passed, and started off on my journey on foot; the horse did not belong to me and I did not care two straws what became of it, a fact which gradually dawned upon the police, and half a dozen of them finally gave chase to the animal, who gave them a regular "breath" before he would allow himself to be caught. Then they brought me my horse, and remounting him I rode off meditating on the mutability of things here below.

Church and State do not harmonize within the broad expanse of Indo-China. The French Missions represent a very great power in the land, and they work independently of the Government itself. In any Annamite town or village will be found the buildings of the Missions of the various religious bodies, or from attending to his purely religious duties. The missionaries in Annam lead a very hard life; the simplest food, the humblest shelter, and the pious robe represent the sum total of their share of this world's gifts. Yet they seem happy enough, and as they are incessantly at work amidst the natives, whose language they thoroughly understand, they have an intimate knowledge of the country, and a very great influence over the Annamites of every class.

The missionaries were constantly beseeching me whilst I was in Annam, and it is only natural that I should remember them gratefully. Perhaps an instance of the help that I received from a missionary will best illustrate their power in the country. I had bought a cargo of salt from a shop of Annamites at Hoc-Che in the teeth of the very bitter opposition of the Chinese gentry of the place. A contract was duly signed with the Annamites, and the pious robe represent the sum total of their share of this world's gifts. Yet they seem happy enough, and as they are incessantly at work amidst the natives, whose language they thoroughly understand, they have an intimate knowledge of the country, and a very great influence over the Annamites of every class.

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The Annamites themselves are a small weedy race, the great bulk of whom are very poor, and where most are no better than their phys. It is said that their distinctive stature and weakly frame is largely due to the remarkable way in which they are brought into this world. An Annamite confinement is a truly astonishing affair. It appears that every one of these wretched souls, after resorting to a vigorous massage, actually tramples underfoot, in a certain way, the woman who is confined to her case. The unfortunate woman is then delivered in an upright position, and is finally stretched on a hard, over-burdened bed, which more or less roasts her. This is, of course, the slightest possible sketch of a thing difficult to describe at all, although it is so extraordinary and so nearly concerns the entire Annamite race, that I think it permissible just to mention it. I have come across a detailed account of it in a French work, and one of my friends was most desirous of telling me how a European lady of ex-accusation had, in default of any other assistance,

been compelled to submit to the Annamite treatment, *avec tout le tremblement*, as he expressed it, but I fled, and was out of range before he could get fairly under way with his story. There are, of course, other causes at work which tend to physically degrade the Annamite. Fish, no doubt enters much too largely into his diet, he is given to drinking to excess, and he seems to be particularly subject to certain destructive forms of disease.

There are, of course, plenty of good points to be noted about these people. It may be said that they are often quick and intelligent, and there is an amability about them which is rather taking. Under French officers they fight well in their own swamps and forests, though they certainly are an odd looking lot. The uniform of the *troupe annamite* consists of a pair of white pyjamas, set off by a broad red sash, they also wear a small blue jacket and a queer little flat hat, trimmed with two long red streamers. It is a truly remarkable sight, and as they are little chaps, they look more like a new and mistaken sort of female than anything else, but they know how to use the rifle that they carry, and have done the French good service many a time.

The Annamites as a body get through a good deal of actual labour, because they *must*, as they are very poor and wages are so low, that they have to do a lot of work for small sum. Directly they get any money, however, their laziness comes out at once, and your Annamite coolie is off with his little pig to drink, gamble, smoke—opium, and generally misconduct himself. In the interior the servility of these people is very trying to an Englishman. Directly they see a Frenchman, down they go on all fours, and if they are on horseback they dismount while he passes. Sometimes I have seen forty or fifty pack horses with their loads, driven off the road in order that I might have it all to myself, much dismounted continually, or if they were being carried in litters, they were shot out of them, in order to show me the proper respect due to a Frenchman, for of course they all took me for one. I have often ridden into one of their villages with some scores of Annamites trailing to the rear of me, not one of whom dared to pass me on the road. I used to feel it a nuisance that the whole country side had to be stoned on its head, just because I chose to ride from Hoc-Che to Nin-Hoa. Many of the French officials, however, insist that it is absolutely necessary to extirpate these harsh obnoxious from the people, and many a native chief of a village or district has been severely punished because some officer or other has not been greeted with the *lais* due to his rank. The Annamite of to-day, is the outcome of centuries of oppression and misrule. For hundreds of years the mandarins of Annam have subjected their wretched countrymen to every form of cruelty and oppression which human wickedness has been

able to devise, and it is not a matter of surprise therefore that these people are to-day an abject and servile race. The French have delivered the whole Annamite nation from an intolerable bondage, and although they are much harder on the natives than we are, they keep them well in hand, nor do they allow them to think that they are as good or better than their masters. The French forces in Indo-China are very small to allow of the natives threatening such dangerous illusions. I was once captured by a squad of police in Japan, as I was riding towards Hakone, made to dismount from my horse, and was ordered to stand with my hat in one hand and my hands in the other while one of their notabilities passed along the road. I thought with some bitterness that the hood used to be on the other side when I was in Annam. I did not like the situation and my gorge rose at it, so I gave my horse a cut with my whip, which sent him capering across the fields. I took off my hat as the great man passed, and started off on my journey on foot; the horse did not belong to me and I did not care two straws what became of it, a fact which gradually dawned upon the police, and half a dozen of them finally gave chase to the animal, who gave them a regular "breath" before he would allow himself to be caught. Then they brought me my horse, and remounting him I rode off meditating on the mutability of things here below.

Church and State do not harmonize within the broad expanse of Indo-China. The French Missions represent a very great power in the land, and they work independently of the Government itself. In any Annamite town or village will be found the buildings of the Missions of the various religious bodies, or from attending to his purely religious duties. The missionaries in Annam lead a very hard life; the simplest food, the humblest shelter, and the pious robe represent the sum total of their share of this world's gifts. Yet they seem happy enough, and as they are incessantly at work amidst the natives, whose language they thoroughly understand, they have an intimate knowledge of the country, and a very great influence over the Annamites of every class.

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